



# I-81 Tolling Application

## Fact Sheet

November 2005



- In early March 2003, the Virginia Department of Transportation requested approval to toll Interstate 81 under federal legislation called the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21).
- TEA-21 included an Interstate Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Pilot Program allowing up to three highway facilities to qualify for tolling. Virginia applied to this program, and in late March, 2003, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) granted "conditional provisional acceptance" of VDOT's tolling application.
- New federal transportation legislation signed by President Bush Aug. 10, 2005, continues the pilot tolling program. FHWA and VDOT are working together to satisfy several requirements for provisional approval. Completion of the first part of a federally required environmental review of the corridor would fulfill one stipulation. FHWA also requires evaluation of the impacts of tolling on traffic.
- It is expected that federal approval to go forward with pursuing tolling as a source of funding I-81 improvements will come after completion of the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement in 2006. This does not mean that tolls would begin to be collected on I-81 in 2006.
- FHWA guidance says states decide who and how much to toll. Current Virginia law allows tolls on I-81 on vehicles *other than* cars, pickups, panel trucks or motorcycles.
- Currently there is not sufficient funding to improve I-81 in the foreseeable future. "Pay-as-you-go" is Virginia's traditional method of paying for highway improvements. For I-81, this means 30-50 years before wide-scale improvements could be completed.